

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5340

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1232

MADRID FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: SOCIALISTS REFUSE DC OFFER OF THREE  
PARTY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING REPUBLICANS

REF: ROME 1223

1. IN MEETING WITH PSI SECRETARY DE MARTINO LAST NIGHT (JAN 23),  
PREMIER-DESIGNATE MORO REJECTED SOCIALIST REQUEST FOR DC-PSI  
GOVERNMENT AND PROPOSED THREE PARTY GOVERNMENT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS,  
SOCIALISTS, AND REPUBLICANS. ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF MEETING NOT  
MADE PUBLIC, DC SOURCES AND PRESS REPORTS THIS MORNING  
SUGGEST THAT MORO DID NOT CLOSE DOOR TO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO  
CRISIS.

2. TODAY THE PSI FORMALLY REJECTED MORO'S PROPOSAL  
FOR A DC-PSI-PRI GOVERNMENT ON THE GROUND THAT IT DID NOT INDICATE  
WILLINGNESS TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ECONOMIC  
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POLICY ANNOUNCED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT ON DECEMBER 23. THE

DIRECTORATE OF THE PSI ALSO REAFFIRMED ITS VIEW THAT THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION CALLS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT, I.E. WITHOUT EXCLUSION OF THE COMMUNISTS. THE PSI DID NOT, HOWEVER, CLOSE THE DOOR, BUT CALLED ON THE DC (NOT MORO) TO PROPOSE A NEW SOLUTION FOR THE CRISIS, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC MEASURES ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

3. SHORTLY AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS NEGATIVE POSITION ON MORO'S LAST PROPOSAL, MORO PROPOSED TO THE SECRETARIES OF THE REPUBLICAN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES A NEW THREE PARTY (DC-PRI-PSDI) GOVERNMENT FORMULA. SUCH A COALITION WOULD NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN EITHER HOUSE (309 IN THE CHAMBER WHERE THE MAJORITY IS 316, AND 147 IN THE SENATE WHERE THE MAJORITY IS 162). IT WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON EXTRNAL SUPPORT FROM EITHER THE SOCIALISTS OR THE LIBERALS (THE LATTE WOULD GIVE IT MAJORITY OF ONLY 1 IN THE SENATE). THE DIRECTORATES OF THE REPUBLICAN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 TO CONSIDER MORO'S PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: THESE LATEST MANEUVERS CLEARLY SHOW BOTH THE DC AND PSI ARE TRYING HARD TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. THE DC IS MAKING A RECORD OF HAVING TRIED EVERY CONCEIVABLE FORMULA FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD AVOID THE NEED FOR ELECTIONS NOW, WHILE THE PSI CAREFULLY REFAINS FROM BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS, INVITES THE DC TO TRY AGAIN, AND CALLS THE NATION'S ATTENTION TO THE CHARGE THAT MORO'S FORMULA IS INADEUATE TO MEET THE CURRENT GRAVE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT MORO'S LATES PROPOSAL (DC-PSDI-PRI) WILL WORK, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT THE NEXT MOVE WILL BE. THE ANSWER PROBABLY LIES WITHIN THE DC WHERE THE DEBATE CONTINUES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS.VOLPE

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